

# 1994 Forest Health Highlights

## Delaware



### The Resource

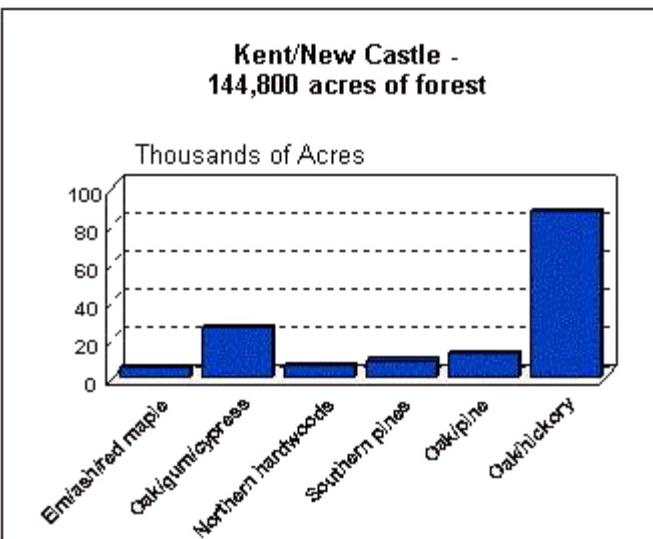
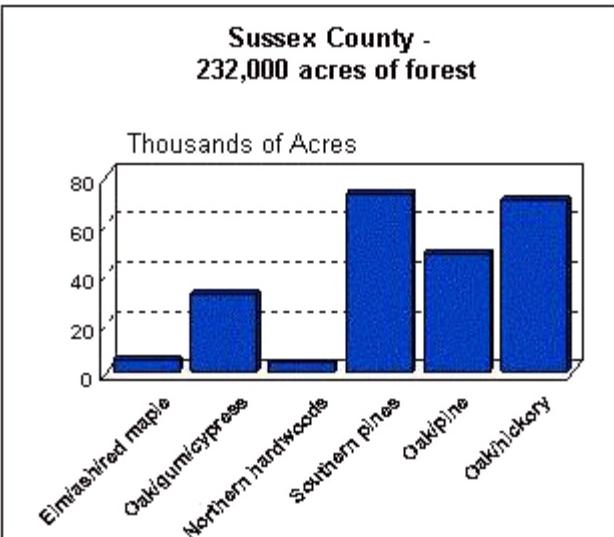
About a third of Delaware's landscape is forested, and 90 percent of all forestland in the State is privately owned. The major forest type is oak/hickory encompassing about 42 percent of all forest within the State. Southern pines, including loblolly and shortleaf, occur predominately in Sussex County. Loblolly pine is the number one species in timber volume accounting for over 22 percent of total tree volume in the State.

### Special Issues

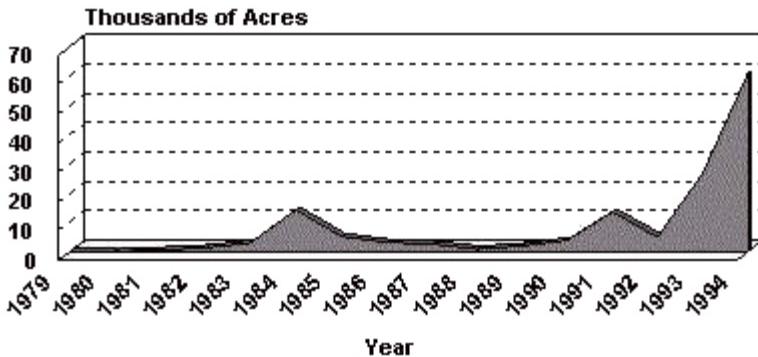
The **gypsy moth** continues to be a serious forest health problem in the State, due to the large component of oak and other susceptible tree species. In 1994, Delaware experienced its worst gypsy moth defoliation ever recorded (60,725 acres). Preventing the defoliation on susceptible trees in forests and residential areas will limit stress and prevent additional tree decline and mortality.

The **southern pine beetle** activity continues to be monitored following the 1993 outbreak which covered over 1,400 acres and caused over \$1 million in lost pine stumpage. While the beetle populations appear to have been greatly reduced by the severe winter of 1993/95, on-going aerial surveillance of susceptible pine host type will ensure that any resurgence in activity will be detected.

### Forests by County



## Gypsy Moth Defoliation in Delaware, 1979-1994



## Other Issues

A series of **ice storms** occurred in Delaware in February of 1994. Ice accumulation was estimated at 14 pounds per branch and resulted in many broken tops and limbs. More than 109,000 acres were affected for a total estimated loss of \$186 million. The accumulation of down wood on the forest floor has presented an increased wildfire hazard. Salvage is being conducted where feasible.

**Bacterial leaf scorch** on pin oak, dogwood anthracnose, eastern and forest tent caterpillars, fall cankerworm, locust leafminer, various sawfly species and walnut caterpillar have all caused some damage and are being monitored.

The **eastern tent caterpillar** continues to be present on wild cherry and ornamental cherry. This insect constructs a nest in the branches of trees. Eastern tent caterpillars can defoliate an entire tree and sometimes the trees die. People often confuse eastern tent caterpillars with gypsy moth. Gypsy moths do not construct nests, and do not feed on cherry.

## Regional Surveys

### FOREST HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM (FHM)

Delaware participates in the National Forest Health Monitoring program. This joint State-Federal effort serves to assess trends in forest conditions and forest stressors. Examples of the kind of information being collected in this program are tree crown conditions, signs of damage or decay, ozone damage, and lichen populations. Because only one forested Federal plot falls within the State, the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service maintains an additional 43 State plots to monitor forest health conditions throughout the State.

## For More Information

DE Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
2320 South DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

302-739-4811

USDA Forest Service  
Forest Health Protection  
180 Canfield Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505